

Monthly Report for March 2017

Submitted April 7, 2017

General Assembly

Both HB 680 and SB 1165 - *Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Student and Workforce Data Linkage - Extension of Time Limit*, had both passed their respective chambers. HB 680 received some opposition, but passed with bipartisan support. SB 1165 passed unanimously without any opposition or discussion.

HB 680 was referred to and passed out of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. SB 1165 has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee and was scheduled for a hearing on April 5, 2017.

Dashboard Development

Development on dual enrollment dashboards continues. Center staff has made significant progress in building the data query and tables to support the visualization.

Specifications for updating and expanding the existing “Initial Postsecondary Enrollments” dashboards have begun. The revisions will add new data elements for disaggregation and add additional years of data.

The two new [dashboards](#) on postsecondary bachelor’s degree graduates employed as novice teachers in Maryland public schools were presented at the March Governing Board meeting. Both dashboards were released in mid-March.

MHEC Collections Components

Center staff and the MHEC liaison have documented information about when data are collected and what data are in each collection. The document also establishes naming conventions for files and provides a tracking mechanism for each file from the time it is received at MHEC until the time it is loaded by the MLDS Center. The final draft was circulated with relevant stakeholders and the final version should be approved by MHEC in mid-April.

Additionally, an analysis of collections completed by MHEC versus those received and loaded by MLDS Center has been completed. A draft timeline is being circulated to validate files not previously provided to the Center and for the Center to load those files once received. The timeline should be finalized in mid-April.

Research

Conference

Several research team members attended the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) in the beginning of March. SREE advances research relevant to practice from early childhood through the

transition to higher education (<https://www.sree.org/>). Two of the Center graduate student Research Fellows also attended a SREE pre-conference workshop on using big data to study academic performance (The Stanford Education Data Archive: Using Big Data to Study Academic Performance).

Research Series

Heath Witzten, Research Fellow with the Center and graduate student in the Department of Economics at the University of Maryland College Park presented the March Research Series on the effects of the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Assistance (EA) grant on financial aid, academic persistence, and working while in school. The April research series on “brain drain” has been prepared and will be presented by Dr. Amber Bloomfield, data scientist in the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment (IRPA) at the University of Maryland.

Research Branch White Papers

The research team has been working on the development of “white papers” that will provide information on an area of interest for which the Center does not yet have data to complete research. The first white paper will be on Youth Apprenticeships, and the research team is preparing a draft to circulate.

ODS Testing

As previously reported, the ODS underwent significant restructuring and streamlining last year. As a means of quality assurance, queries run against the old ODS are being replicated and run against the new ODS to ensure both produce the same results. The research team completed the replication of the Early Childhood Care and Education analyses. The results replicated well, but the research team noted some differences in the numbers of individuals, which were reported to the Systems staff. The Systems staff are reviewing the difference and determining the best way to proceed.

Postdoctoral Fellow and Grant

As reported at the Governing Board meeting, Dr. Henneberger applied for a fellowship through the University of Maryland School of Social Work that, if received, would add a postdoctoral fellow to work part-time on an MLDS project.

Dr. Henneberger also organized and coordinated efforts to use the MLDS data for a grant from the DHHS Office of Minority Health (Minority Youth Violence Prevention II). The School of Social Work ultimately decided not to move forward with submitting the Minority Youth Violence Prevention II grant.

Annual Dual Enrollment Report

Dr. Henneberger has been working with the Center staff on revising the format of the statutorily required Annual Dual Enrollment Report. Some of the content provided in the report is not required by statute. Accordingly, staff is considering whether some of that information may be better as a separate analytical report, or provided as a dashboard on the website.

SDP Team Monthly Report – March 2017

After months of planning and preparation, the day scheduled for the End-User Panel, March 14th, was the only snow day this winter! The team scrambled to reschedule this important gathering for April 4th. The end-user panel includes education and workforce researchers, who are scholars from universities,

institutional researchers from universities and school districts, and research and policy personnel from MSDE and MHEC. Despite their busy schedules, the majority of the panel were able to attend the new meeting date. During the delay the team continued to hone plans and materials, which were all vetted with the MLDSC Executive Director and Assistant Attorney General in the weeks before March 14th.

The search processes to hire both a temporary IT Program Manager (through MSDE's SLDS Grant Project Manager) and a Database Engineer (through UMB) continue. The team hopes to have both positions hired in the coming weeks. There are also plans to hire two more talented doctoral students in College Park to assist with the SDP project, and possibly another student on the UMB campus. The SDP team is looking to leverage available resources to alleviate workload within the shortened project timeframes. Finally, the team continues to work on the structure and content of the Gold Standard Data Sets with the MLDSC Data Team.

Systems Management

Tasks

The system management team worked on the following tasks this month:

1. Moved from the MSDE PulseSecure SSL VPN to Palo Alto Global Protect VPN solution;
2. Analyzed the the decision to move all servers to TierPoint versus moving to an Oracle cloud solution;
3. Continued the effort to comply with DoIT's statewide centralized policy for SWGI compliant IP addresses, including:
 - a. Moved three of the five VLANS to the SWGI IP segment;
 - b. Working to move the remaining two VLANS; and
 - c. Troubleshooting issues on the production VLAN with Oracle support;
4. Renewed the SSL certificate, which has been published on the website;
5. Set up, tested and deployed the Granicus (GovDelivery) topics & subscription feature on the website;
6. Deployed the new Public Information Act webpage and form; and
7. Developed the following business process documentation to efficiently manage data requests:
 - a. A narrative process description;
 - b. A work breakdown structure document that shows who is responsible for each step in the process;
 - c. A flowchart that provides a visual diagram of the steps and major decisions in the process; and
 - d. A Gantt Chart that provides a timeline for the steps in the process;

Security

MLDS Center staff met with DoIT IT security officials, Skyline (enterprise system management contractor), and Cyber Engineering Services (IT security auditor) about Cyber's proposal to install and monitor an intrusion detection system (IDS) for the Center's database that contains PII data. Part of the DoIT's enterprise plan provides certain levels of monitoring. Before implementing Cyber's IDS, Center staff want to ensure that the services are not duplicative of what will be provided in the DoIT enterprise environment. Staff are waiting for DoIT's analysis.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Center staff Security Awareness training has been rescheduled for May 9th.

Data Loading

Staff completed loading the National Student Clearinghouse data submitted from MSDE. Staff are currently processing other MSDE data submissions including college readiness assessments, K-12 assessments, attendance and enrollments.

Staff also completed identity cleanup and assignment of Person_ID's in preparation for loading MHEC 2013 & 2014 End-of-Term System (EOTS) data collection. Finally, staff is continuing with the ongoing work to resolve identities for individuals who have multiple system ID's for the same identifier (SSN).

Website

Dashboard Traffic

Top 10 dashboards hits:

| Dashboard Name | Hits |
|--|-------------|
| 1. High School Graduates - Initial Postsecondary Enrollments | 56 |
| 28. High School Outcomes by Industry | 36 |
| 2. High School Graduates - Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Year | 25 |
| 25. Overview of High School Outcomes | 22 |
| 5. High School Graduates - Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Race Ethnicity | 22 |
| 26. Workforce Participation by High School Outcomes | 21 |
| 3. High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By County | 21 |
| 4. High School Graduates - Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Gender | 21 |
| 15. Initial Postsecondary Enrollments - Type of Institution by Gender | 20 |
| 7. Initial Postsecondary Enrollments - In State vs Out of State | 19 |

Website Traffic

